

■ Conservation Funding

"In constant dollars, we spent more money during the Depression on conservation than we're spending today, and that just doesn't make sense."

—Tom Harkin
U.S. Senate, Iowa

"If you look at the summary of the verbal content from the conservation forums, you'll see that consensus exists in that document, too. It's simply that people believe that we should commit ourselves to more significant funding and more significant coupling of farm program spending to conservation objectives."

—Paul Hansen
Izaak Walton League
of America

■ Locally Led Conservation

"We'd like to see that kind of approach where the farmers are in control, they have a flexible number of options to deal with their problems. We'd like that kind of tool to be at the center of a stewardship incentives program in the new farm bill."

—Loni Kemp
Campaign for
Sustainable Agriculture

"We were finding that farmers were hearing an awful lot about conservation practices and initiatives from the government's side, but they weren't hearing a lot from the industry side and we thought that needed to be changed."

—Tom Hoogheem
Monsanto Company

"Technical assistance is one of the things that there's always been very broad agreement on—that the federal government does very well, does very appropriately, and does very cost efficiently."

—Al Sample
Pinchot Institute for
Conservation



"We have got to create this tie between the land and all the people of this country in order to build on farm policy for the future. On the one hand, we've made extraordinary strides. On the other hand, conservation challenges are mounting and intensifying more quickly than we are solving them. On a per acre basis, we spend five dollars on management of public lands for every dollar we spend on private conservation."

Farmers, ranchers, and foresters want to do the right thing. Their proximity to the land makes them our most conscientious land stewards. But we must give them the tools and resources they need to keep their operations economically and environmentally sustainable."

—Dan Glickman
Secretary of
Agriculture

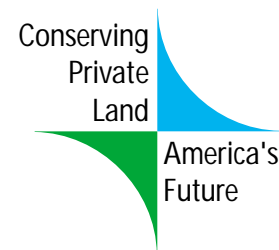


Summaries of the five Private Land Conservation Forums and the National Summit on Private Land Conservation are posted on the USDA website at:
www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/pastmtgs.html



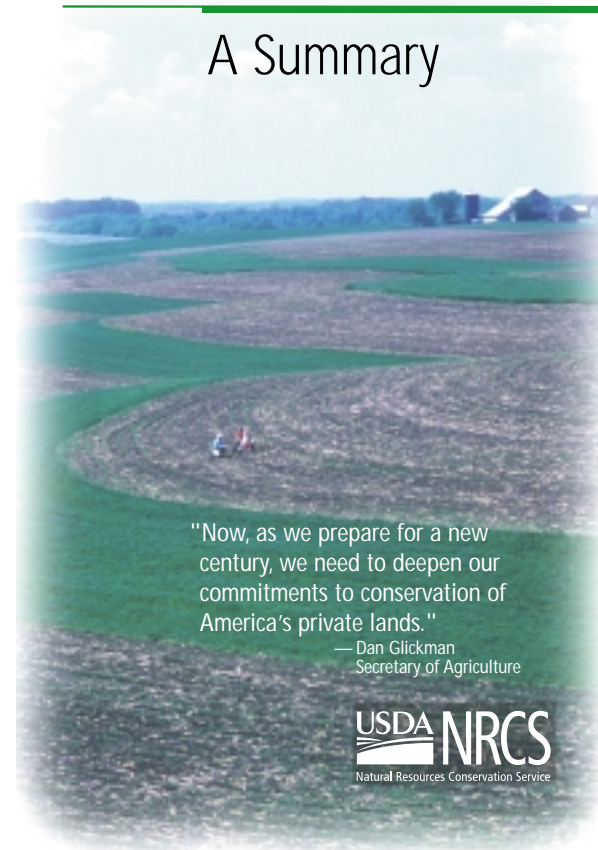
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



National Summit on Private Land Conservation

A Summary



"Now, as we prepare for a new century, we need to deepen our commitments to conservation of America's private lands."

—Dan Glickman
Secretary of Agriculture



Regional Forums

USDA held five Private Land Conservation Forums across the country in October 1999.

Some Common Views . . .

- ❑ Conservation programs should remain voluntary.
- ❑ Private landowners should not be made to bear the financial burden of conservation practices that the public demands and benefits from.
- ❑ For outreach to be successful, increased emphasis must be placed on financial incentives and collaborative approaches. Cost sharing, tax incentives, and various ongoing programs are cited as good incentives.
- ❑ Public outreach to limited-resource and underserved landowners should continue and expand.
- ❑ Education outreach is needed to address the growing disconnection between urban consumers and rural producers.
- ❑ Private landowners need enough financial incentive to ensure some financial security so they can participate in a long-term, meaningful way in conservation programs.
- ❑ Conservation programs offering financial incentives and technical assistance are popular and should be better funded. This includes such programs as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Conservation Reserve Program, and Stewardship Incentives Program, as well as state and local conservation programs.
- ❑ The locally led process is a good way to implement conservation.
- ❑ There is a need to educate the public about the adverse environmental impacts of suburban development.

National Summit

The National Summit on Private Land Conservation was held on December 7, 1999, in Ames, Iowa. Panelists identified issues and concerns and began discussion of a national conservation strategy for the 21st century.

Conservation Leaders Speak Out . . .

■ The Public's Responsibility

"Our work with people in the agriculture community has convinced me that people want to do the right thing, and we need to continue to forge ways to help them do that."

—Bill Weeks
The Nature Conservancy

"We're talking about how do we attach public value to private land. How do we develop mechanisms to share the cost between the producer and the beneficiary who is downstream."

—Ralph Grossi
American Farmland Trust

■ Local Actions

"We strongly believe, through the district movement, the local folks need to have a say in what goes on in conservation on their own lands that they manage and own."

—Rudy Rice
National Association of Conservation Districts

"The CRP program, the buffer initiative, the Wetlands Reserve Program, and the technical assistance provided through the NRCS are the foundation for our state and local conservation efforts."

—Tom Vilsack
Governor of Iowa

■ Program Availability

"Other types of incentive programs need to be developed for small farmers to get them, black farmers specifically, to get involved."

—Ralph Paige
Federation of Southern Cooperatives

"One of the drawbacks to progress in the agriculture field has been not having availability of the USDA programs that we now have ... We're hoping to catch up, but we're going to need quite a bit of help to do that."

—Bob Miller
Intertribal Agriculture Council



Representatives of 18 conservation and farm organizations were panelists at the summit.